



# US Sailing Coaching and Support Vessel Policies

updated: February 28, 2025

## SECTION A PREAMBLE

### A1 Applicability

- A1.1 These support person policies apply at US Sailing Championships and their qualifiers when so stated in the US Sailing Championship Conditions, the individual Championship Conditions, or a regatta's notice of race.
- A1.2 If an event invokes these policies but does not state the grade, then Grade 1 applies.
- A1.3 These policies rank as "rules" as defined in the Racing Rules of Sailing.
- A1.4 Allegations that support persons have broken these policies will be handled in accordance with RRS 62.

### A2 Definition of terms

- A2.1 Private/Team Coach - A coach who is not supplied by US Sailing is defined as a private coach.
- A2.2 Spectator vessel - A vessel occupied by persons who have direct ties to one or more competitors but are only observing and are *not* providing assistance to competitors while on the water.
- A2.3 Coach vessel - A vessel occupied by persons who are registered as "coaches" for the event and are intending to provide coaching and otherwise assisting one or more competitors while on the water.
- A2.4 Support vessel - Either a spectator or coach vessel.
- A2.5 Platform - A stationary flotation area which has been provided by the organizing authority located near to the racing area.

## SECTION B Event Grades

### B1 Grade 1

- B1.1 Private/team coaching is permitted.
- B1.2 Private coaches must:
  - (a) have current US Sailing Smallboat Level 1 (or higher) Instructor Certification, or the equivalent from another World Sailing Member National Authority,
  - (b) have current SafeSport Training from the U.S. Center for Safesport,
  - (c) be individual or family members of US Sailing, in good standing, and
  - (d) not otherwise ineligible to coach under the law, regulation, policies, and rules of the USOPC or its affiliated organizations.
- B1.3 US Sailing may also supply coaches who will be available to all competitors.

### B2 Grade 2:

- B2.1 One or more US Sailing coaches will be supplied.
- B2.2 No private/team coaching is permitted.
- B2.3 Private/team spectator vessels only if permitted in the NOR.
- B2.4 The OA may arrange for spectator vessels.

### B3 Grade 3:

- B3.1 No coaches.
- B3.2 Private/team spectator vessels are permitted only if permitted by the events' rules .
- B3.3 The OA may arrange for spectator vessels.

## SECTION C Permitted and Restricted Support Activities

### C1.1 General

- (a) Other than at a Grade 1 event, no coaching or support (other than a US Sailing-supplied coach) is permitted from the time a competitor arrives at the venue each day until 1800 on practice days, and until the Chief Judge or Umpire releases the competitors on race days.
- (b) The OA may arrange for spectator vessels or a platform that provides a location for boat rotation and spectating.
- (c) The OA may create separate zones for registered coaches and general spectator fleets. Only registered coaches shall operate boats in preferential coaching zones described by the OA.
- (d) The OA may implement a notice of race and/or sailing instruction limiting the competitors' access to only registered coaches and other designated persons on race days.

### C1.2 Support vessels shall carry on board:

- (a) Personal Floatation Devices (life jackets / buoyancy aids) for all passengers and the driver
- (b) any additional safety equipment required by local maritime law
- (c) VHF radio
- (d) engine safety cut out switch and tether (ECOS or kill cord), also known as a safety lanyard or automatic engine immobilizer. The engine safety cut out switch and tether shall be used while operating on plane or above displacement speed. The driver is strongly encouraged to use the ECOS at all times when the engine is running.

### C1.3 The maximum plated / certified passenger limits for the vessel shall not be exceeded.

### C1.4 At all times, support persons including the registered driver(s) of a support vessel shall comply with directions given by or under the authority of a race official. This includes assisting in rescue operations when requested to do so.

### C1.5 Support vessels shall monitor race committee communications on VHF radio on a channel designated by the race committee.

### C1.6 Support vessels shall comply with the local harbor and marina regulations including speed limits.

### C1.7 Racing Area Restrictions

- (a) The racing area is defined as an area bounded by any mark of the course, the starting lines and the finishing lines.
- (b) From the time of the **preparatory signal** for the first start of a race until all boats have finished the race or the race committee signals an abandonment, except when rendering assistance to a boat in danger, or at the request of the race committee, coach and spectator vessels shall:
  - (i) remain at least 50 meters outside the racing area or in the zone(s) designated by the race committee
  - (ii) between the preparatory signal and the starting signal of a race, be 50 meters below the starting line and its extensions.
  - (iii) remain at least 50 meters away from any racing boat
  - (iv) not interfere with any official or media vessels.